

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend FIG. 1 and FIG. 2 as provided in the proposed drawings.

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Prior to a first Office Action in this application, Applicant requests that original claims 1, 13 and 15 be amended. Claims 1 and 4-21 remain in the application. These amendments and new claims do not involve any new matter or objectionable changes. When the Examiner takes this application up for action, he is requested to take the foregoing into account.

II. EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Reference is also made to a plurality of telephonic conversations between January 10, 2005 and February 22, 2005 attended by Examiner Elallam and Victor G. Cooper (Reg. No. 39,641) some of which further included Supervisory Examiner Kizou Hassan and Georgann S. Grunbach (33,179), in which the patentability of the unallowed claims were discussed.

III. AMENDMENTS

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiners for the courtesy of discussing the case and for identifying subject matter that was subject to further clarification. The Applicants have made amendments to the specification and claims in response to those comments. In particular:

- FIG. 1 has been amended to clarify that the two lines labeled "118" emerging from the central office 104 refer to a pair of wires. This is described in the Applicant's specification at page 6, line 29, et seq., which indicates "It should be appreciated that although only one twisted pair 118 is shown, typically two twisted pairs of copper wires are available in most homes and/or offices, as shown in FIG. 2."
- FIG. 2 has been amended so that the inner pair of wires is labeled "118A", while the outer pair of wires is labeled "118B".
- The specification has been amended to refer to a generic *pair* of wires (that is to say, either the inner pair or the outer pair) as "118", the inner pair of wires as "118A" and the outer pair of wires as "118B".

- The specification has also been amended to refer to the telephone line 216 having two pairs of *wires* instead of *lines*.

To fully understand the structures disclosed in FIGs. 1 and 2, please refer to the specification as reproduced below, which describes (1) signal splitters that separated the two twisted pairs into an inner twisted pair for POTS service, and an outer twisted pair for data service, and (2) micro-filters, which obviate the need for signal splitters and simply low pass filter the signal from any twisted pair to provide a POTS signal, thus allowing only two wires to be used instead of four:


A signal splitter is a device for isolating voice and data signals transmitted on analog telephone wires. These splitters reduce the cost of rolling out DSL, as they reduce the complexity of initial setup for DSL consumers. The splitter, essentially, comprises a low pass filter that splits data and voice communication. Such a splitter is disclosed in U.S. patent No. 5,930,340 to Bell, and U.S. patent No. 5,757,803 to Russell, et al., both of which are incorporated herein by reference. As most homes and offices are wired with two pairs of twisted copper wires (hereafter "twisted pairs"), the splitter typically splits data to an outer pair of the wires and voice to an inner twisted pair of the wires. Therefore, voice communication devices (POTS devices) can only be plugged into communication-jacks that connect to the inner twisted pair, and data communication devices can only be plugged into communication-jacks that are connected to the outer twisted pair. The DSL consumer, however, must ensure that the correct devices are plugged into the correct communication-jacks, and ensure that line converters are installed between the devices and the communication-jacks to switch inner and outer pairs, if necessary.

Furthermore, the DSL consumer has to configure his/her DSL modem by manually entering configuration information supplied by his/her DSL service provider into his/her computer. Often, the DSL service provider must spend a substantial amount of resources providing telephone assistance to talk DSL consumers through the setup process, and/or send out technicians to install the DSL modem.

More recently, micro-filters or μ filters for splitting data and voice signals have been developed. These μ filters are also low pass filters that are placed between each POTS device and a regular telephone jack. The μ filters, therefore, allow two copper wires to be utilized instead of four, as there is no division of data and voice at a central splitter. A typical double twisted pair analog telephone line, can therefore, support two independent data and/or voice communication lines. The μ filters, however, do not alleviate the problems associated with configuration of the DSL modem. (Specification, page 3, line 5 - page 7, line 2)

The Applicants believe that the Application now consistently distinguishes wires from lines, both in the specification and in the claims. Accordingly, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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